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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 14 September 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Botswana and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union and the Southern African Development Community we have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the declaration by the European Union/Southern Africa Ministerial Conference issued on 6 September 1994 at Berlin (see annex).

We should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 91 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Permanent Representative of Germany

(Signed) Legwaila Joseph LEGWAILA
Permanent Representative of Botswana

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ANNEX

Declaration issued at Berlin on 6 September 1994 by the European Union/Southern Africa Ministerial Conference

[Original: English/French]

I. PREAMBLE

1. The European Union and the Southern African Development Community,

Reaffirming the universal values and ideals which are shared by their peoples and Governments and which have their expression in the respect of human dignity,

Expressing their conviction that the protection and promotion of human rights are a cornerstone of democratic societies and that the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the legitimate concern of the international community and inseparable from the pursuit of international peace and security,

Recalling their commitment to build, consolidate and strengthen democratic institutions founded on accountability, transparency, good governance and the rule of law,

Recognizing that peace and security are essential prerequisites for sustainable economic and social development,

Mindful of historical, political, cultural and economic links between Europe and the southern African region,

Recalling the long-standing cooperation between the two regions as expressed in bilateral and multilateral frameworks, in particular the Lomé Convention,

Welcoming the demise of apartheid in South Africa and the successful transition to multi-party democracy across the region, which opens up new perspectives for southern Africa,

Bearing in mind the ongoing peace processes in Angola and Mozambique and reiterating their commitment to supporting transition to multi-party democracy in those countries,

Desirous of promoting national reconstruction, regional cooperation and integration in southern Africa,

Recognizing that the southern African region has a substantial development potential through closer cooperation,

Have decided to enter into a comprehensive dialogue to further the development of relations between the two regions, taking into account other

bilateral and multilateral arrangements and without prejudice to the Lomé Convention.

II. OVERALL OBJECTIVES

2. The European Union and the South African Development Community solemnly reaffirm their determination to reinforce their relationship and to establish a comprehensive dialogue with a view to:

(a) Working together to uphold at different forums the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Supporting democracy at all levels and the rule of law, respect for human rights and protection of minorities, promotion of social justice and good governance, and working together to create adequate conditions to eliminate poverty and all forms of racial, political, religious, cultural, linguistic and gender discrimination;

(c) Encouraging the reduction of armaments and, in particular, associating themselves with efforts to exercise restraint in exporting armaments to areas where they are likely to exacerbate conflict;

(d) Supporting an open and increasingly productive and equitable international economy and, in this context, promoting cooperation in trade with and in the southern African region, in order to enhance its economic development;

(e) Promoting and facilitating domestic and foreign investment in the productive sectors, particularly in the processing and manufacturing industries, in the southern African region to enhance the region's economic development;

(f) Encouraging policies aimed at sustainable economic growth for the mutual benefit of the populations of and supporting the economic reforms under way in the southern African region;

(g) Promoting harmonious economic development through environmentally sound and sustainable management of human and natural resources;

(h) Promoting interregional cooperation through the fostering of contacts in the fields of culture, education and science, and sport and socio-cultural activities;

(i) Bearing in mind the need to promote the Southern African Development Community principles of equity, balance and mutual benefit in the southern African region.

III. AREAS OF COOPERATION

3. Political dialogue

Political dialogue between the European Union and the countries of the southern African region will consist of a regular exchange of views on general matters of foreign policy, particularly with a view to promoting peace and long-term stability in the southern African region.

4. Regional integration

The European Union offers to share experience in the field of regional integration and in this respect to assist the Southern African Development Community, inter alia, through exchange of personnel, training, assistance and advice on organizational matters.

5. Trade and economic cooperation

The Parties undertake to promote trade cooperation with and within the southern African region in order to foster its economic development, in full respect of the results of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and without prejudice to the Lomé Convention.

In this context the Parties will promote the development of a long-term closer economic cooperation in southern Africa.

The Parties note and welcome cross-border initiatives to facilitate regional investment and payments in the interest of more economic cohesion of the southern African region.

6. Private investment, small and medium-sized enterprises and promotion of the private sector

The Parties recognize the key role of domestic and foreign private investment and the private sector in the promotion of economic and social development of the southern African region. Special emphasis should be given to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Parties underline that, apart from political stability, essential conditions for promotion of domestic and foreign investment are a favourable investment climate, resulting from the development and extension of market economy structures, the removal of bureaucratic barriers and the assurance of legal security. In this context, the Parties undertake to promote the conclusion of bilateral agreements between the States members of the European Union and the States members of the Southern African Development Community for investment protection.

7. Development cooperation

The Parties declare their intention to coordinate closely the planning and implementation of regional development programmes and projects in fields such as transport and communications, energy, trade promotion, livestock protection,

poverty alleviation, population and social development, food security, education, training and health.

In this context, they note that under the terms of articles 157 and 164 of the Fourth Lomé Convention, it is possible to include in regional cooperation projects a neighbouring country not a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

The Parties reiterate the importance of the coordinating role of the European Commission and the Southern African Development Community secretariat in this respect.

Concerning the above-mentioned areas of cooperation, the Parties in particular agree as follows:

(a) Transport and communications. The Parties reiterate the importance of the development of transport and communications cooperation in the southern African region as a major instrument for the promotion of investment and economic growth;

(b) Energy. The Parties reaffirm the key role that cooperation in the field of energy with and within the southern African region can play in fostering the region's economic development;

(c) Education and training. The Parties reiterate the importance of training and education for the overall development of southern Africa. In this respect, they underline their continued support for this sector. In particular, they underline the importance of continued and intensified vocational training and public administration programmes;

(d) Health. The Parties agree that primary health care and the control of serious diseases, such as AIDS and endemic tropical diseases, are important areas of coordination. They therefore recognize that coordinated efforts to combat them require the full support of the European Union and the countries of southern Africa;

(e) Food and agriculture. The Parties recognize that agriculture remains the mainstay of the economies of most States members of the Southern African Development Community. Furthermore, they accept that food security depends on sustainable agriculture. They therefore undertake to enhance their cooperation in this field;

(f) Mining. The Parties recognize that mining constitutes a strategic sector for most States members of the Southern African Development Community. They also recognize that great scope exists for close regional cooperation in exploration, beneficiation and manufacturing of mining equipment. They, therefore, agree to promote cooperation in this area for mutual benefit.

8. Natural resources and the environment

The Parties recognize the importance of the global environment and the conservation of natural resources.

The European Union undertakes to support southern African efforts in such fields as:

(a) The fight against desertification and soil erosion;

(b) Water resource management;

(c) Sustainable agriculture;

(d) Management of natural resources.

9. Science and technology

The Parties agree to intensify scientific and technological cooperation both with and within the Southern African Development Community region. Possible areas of such cooperation may include:

(a) Promotion of the utilization of regional resources compatible with the environment;

(b) Industrial research and development;

(c) Ecological research;

(d) Agricultural research;

(e) Energy technology, especially new and renewable resources;

(f) Water-processing technology;

(g) Tropical medicine.

10. Tourism

The Parties underline the major contribution that tourism can make to development. In this regard, they note the remarkable opportunities offered by the southern African region. In this context, they agree that stable political conditions, the removal of bureaucratic barriers and a well functioning infrastructure are important for the development of tourism.

11. Cultural cooperation

The Parties agree to foster contacts in the fields of culture, education and science, especially cooperation between institutions of higher learning, and sports and socio-cultural organizations.

12. Cooperation in the combating of international crime

The Parties undertake to cooperate closely in the fight against international crime, including, in particular, arms smuggling, illicit cultivation, trafficking and consumption of drugs, money laundering and illegal dumping of toxic waste.

13. Other areas

Other areas of cooperation may be included upon mutual agreement.

IV. CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

14. The Parties agree to continue their comprehensive dialogue and commit their respective competent institutions to making appropriate proposals to follow up the Conference.

The exchange of personnel between both sides could be an early follow-up measure to strengthen dialogue and provide expertise for the institutional development of the southern African region.